



I got started doing Improv after a good friend recommended I audition for the troupe at Arizona State University. Two weeks into my freshman year I joined the main cast of Barren Mind Improv Troupe. A few months later I was directing the troupe. From there, I started getting into sketch and standup comedy and even started a few independent troupes that ended up doing shows at theatres like the Tempe Improv, Second City Hollywood and Upright Citizens Brigade in New York. Since then, I've continued to perform throughout Phoenix, as well as in festivals like the Del Close Marathon in San Francisco.

Here are important tips for a successful Improv Competition at IMTA:

1. Have fun and be yourself! It sounds like a cliché and dorky rule, but it is by far the most important. That's why it's number one on this list! You can never have too much fun doing Improv. The judges don't want to see someone nervous fumble through the competition. They want to see your personality shine through! This goes for all of IMTA Competitions, not just Improv.

2. Relax. In Improv scenes, it's important to take a moment before diving in. Take a step back, breathe, and then step into the scene.

3. Make strong active (not passive) choices. The only thing that's worse than not making a choice is making a choice you really don't believe you can accomplish for the Competition. Whether you're a dentist on a tightrope or a doctor on a deserted island, go at it with everything you've got!

4. Since it is recommended to start your scene, one "trick" is to start the scene with what is called "labeling." It's important to give your location, your scene partner, or your action some sort of label so the audiences (judges) know what's happening in the scene. What is your relationship to your scene partner? Where does the scene take place? What are you doing together? Starting with a strong (and funny) label will help your scene start off on the right foot! *Please note- the announcer will slate your scenario.

5. You don't have to be funny. The hidden riddle of Improv is that the harder you try not to be funny the more funny your scene is going to be. Why? Because the very best kind of Improv scene you can do is an "interesting" scene, not necessarily a "funny" one. When you do an interesting scene, a very surprising thing happens...the funny comes out all by its self.

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